

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance are requested in view of the above amendments and the remarks below.

Claims 1-5, 8-12, 15-19, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Gehani et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,765,171), hereafter "Gehani." Claims 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gehani in view of Benson (U.S. 5,819,272). These rejections are defective because Gehani and Benson, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose each and every feature set forth in the claims as required by 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 103(a).

Regarding independent claim 1, Gehani fails to disclose at least the features of:

"during a subsequent replication process initiated by the receiving server, preventing replication of the unread activity back to the originating server; and during the subsequent replication process, replicating the unread activity to at least one other server not identified as the originating server."

The Examiner's rejection is based on Gehani's use of database version vectors (DBVVs), which reflect the total number of updates to a database, not to any specific data item (see, e.g., col. 5, line 63 to col. 6, line 30). Thus, a DBVV is clearly not associated with a data item such as the claimed "unread activity." Gehani compares the DBVV of a recipient server (DBVV_r) to the DBVV of an originating server (DBVV_o) (see, e.g., steps 520, 530, and 540, FIG. 5) to

determine whether updates are required without having to analyzed each and every single data item in the database. If the DBVV_o and DBVV_r are the same, replication does not occur. If however, DBVV_o and DBVV_r are not the same, then replication occurs in **a conventional manner**. To this extent, in a subsequent replication process, replication of unread activity from the recipient server back to the originating server is not prevented as in the claimed invention.

Further, Gehani uses a comparison DBVV_o and DBVV_r, instead of an examination of unread entries in an unread log, to determine whether or not replication should occur.

Benson fails to remedy the glaring deficiencies of Gehani.

Independent claims 8, 15, and 22 are allowable for reasons similar to those set forth above with regard to independent claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that all pending claims are allowable.

If the Examiner believes that anything further is necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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